

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending and new claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Mark-ups reflecting changes are provided on the attached sheets. Please amend the claims as follows:

B2 **A** **1. (Amended)** A method for configuring a product, comprising:
initiating a session in which a user configures a product comprising a configuration of items selected from a plurality of items;
generating a series of selection option sets, each selection option set comprising at least one item and generated in accordance with a selection of an item by the user from a previous selection option set;
identifying an item of a selection option set as a default selection, the default selection optimizing an optimization function;
providing for presentation to the user the series of selection option sets, the selection option set comprising the identified default selection;
accepting from the user a selection of an item from one or more selection option sets;
and
determining a configuration for the product in accordance with the selections of the items from the one or more selection option sets.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each selection option set presented to the user is checked before presentation to confirm that all items in the selection option set are actually available to the user.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying an item of the selection option set as a default selection comprises identifying a default selection which provides an optimized fit according to the optimization function.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the optimization function maximizes manufacturer profit.

5. Canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Ant 037 6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the default selection comprises an item having a low price.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the optimization function is defined during the session.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the optimization function is defined in response to an identification of the user.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the optimization function is defined in response to a product selection decision made by the user.

A² 10. (Amended) A method for configuring a product, comprising:
providing for presentation to a user a series of selection option sets, each selection option set comprising an item, each selection option set generated in accordance with a selection of an item by the user from a previous selection option set;
for at least one of the selection option sets, identifying a default selection;
for each selection option set, before presenting the selection option set to the user, determining which of the items of the selection option set are actually available to the user and presenting only those items of the selection option set which are actually available to the user;
for each selection option set, accepting a selection of an item from the user; and
for the at least one selection option set for which a default selection is identified, selecting as the default selection an item which is actually available to the user and which provides an optimized result according to a preselected optimization function.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
before any selection option sets are presented to the user, defining configuration information to provide the series of selection option sets to be presented to configure the product; and
within the determining step, determining which of the items in the defined configuration information are actually available to the user.

12. **(Amended)** The method of claim 11, further comprising:
as selections are made by the user, adding one or more constraints to later presented selection option sets; and
within the determining step, determining which of the items are in the defined configuration information, meet the one or more constraints added by user selections, and are actually available to the user.

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13. **(Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein the preselected optimization function is selected during a session with the user in which the product configuration is performed.

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14. **(Amended)** The method of claim 13, wherein the preselected optimization function is selected as a function of an identity of the user.

15. **(Amended)** The method of claim 13, wherein the preselected optimization function is selected by the user.

16. **(Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein the default selection provides an optimized result according to a second optimization function and according to the first optimization function.

17. **(Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein the preselected optimization function comprises a function which minimizes price to the user.

18. **(Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein the preselected optimization function comprises a function which maximizes profit to a manufacturer.

19. **(Amended)** The method of claim 10, wherein the preselected optimization function comprises a function which minimizes time to delivery of the product.

20. **(Amended)** A system for configuring a product, comprising:
a configuration engine operable to:

communicate with a user interface operable to display a plurality of lists of items to a user and to accept a plurality of selections from the user, for at least one list a default item being indicated to the user; and

generate the lists of items, each list of items generated in accordance with a selection by the user from a previous list of items; and

an available to promise engine operable to:

store information indicating item availability; and

provide the lists of items to the user interface for display, the default item being determined by applying an optimization function to the item availability information.

21. **(Amended)** The system of claim 20, wherein:

the configuration engine is operable to determine the lists of items in response to selections made by the user; and

the available to promise engine:

comprises information regarding availability of the items determined by the configuration engine;

comprises information for each item used in applying the optimization function to the available items; and

is operable to return to the configuration engine a list of items which are actually available to the user.

22. **(Amended)** The system of claim 21, wherein the configuration engine is operable to apply the optimization function to the actually available items returned from the available to promise engine.

23. **(Amended)** The system of claim 21, wherein the available to promise engine is operable to:

apply the optimization function to the items which are actually available before returning the list to the configuration engine; and

identify the default item when the list is returned.

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24. (Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein:
for each list of items to be displayed to the user, the configuration engine is operable to pass to the available to promise engine a list of proper configuration items; and
for each list of proper configuration items, the available to promise engine is operable to:
determine which items are actually available to the user;
apply the optimization function to each available item; and
return to the configuration engine a list of available items and an identification of which item best matches the optimization function.

25. The system of claim 20, wherein the optimization function comprises a function for minimizing product price.

26. The system of claim 20, wherein the optimization function comprises a function for maximizing profits.

27. The system of claim 20, wherein the optimization function comprises a function for minimizing delay until the product is available.

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28. (New) A method for configuring a product, comprising:

- initiating a session in which a user configures a product, the product comprising a configuration of items selected from a series of lists, each list comprising one or more items selected from a plurality of items;
- receiving from the user a selection of an item from a current list comprising one or more items;
- generating a next list comprising one or more items in accordance with the selection of the item from the current list;
- identifying a default selection comprising an item of the next list that optimizes an optimization function;
- providing for presentation to the user the next list comprising the one or more items having the identified default selection; and
- determining a configuration for the product in accordance with the selection of items from the lists.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, further comprising repeating the following for each list of the series of lists until a last list is reached:

- receiving from the user a selection of an item from a current list comprising one or more items;
- generating a next list comprising one or more items in accordance with the selection of the item from the current list;
- identifying a default selection comprising an item of the next list that optimizes the optimization function; and
- providing for presentation to the user the next list comprising the one or more items having the identified default selection.

30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein generating the next list comprises:
determining a valid item configuration for the product in accordance with the selection of the item from the current list and in accordance with a constraint restricting selection of an item for the product; and
generating the next list comprising only one or more items of the valid item configuration.

31. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein generating the next list comprises:
determining one or more items of the next list that are available to the user in accordance with a constraint restricting selection of an item for the product; and
generating the next list comprising only the one or more items of the next list that are available to the user in accordance with the constraint restricting selection of an item for the product.

32. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the optimization function comprises a function for minimizing product price.

33. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the optimization function comprises a function for maximizing profits.

34. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the optimization function is selected as a function of an identity of the user.

35. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the optimization function is selected by the user.

But b1p7 36. (New) A system for configuring a product, the system comprising one or more software components embodied in computer-readable media and when executed operable to:

initiate a session in which a user configures a product, the product comprising a configuration of items selected from a series of lists, each list comprising one or more items selected from a plurality of items;

receive from the user a selection of an item from a current list comprising one or more items;

generate a next list comprising one or more items in accordance with the selection of the item from the current list;

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X identify a default selection comprising an item of the next list that optimizes an optimization function;

provide for presentation to the user the next list comprising the one or more items having the identified default selection; and

determine a configuration for the product in accordance with the selection of items from the lists.

37. (New) The system of Claim 36, operable to repeat the following for each list of the series of lists until a last list is reached:

receiving from the user a selection of an item from a current list comprising one or more items;

generating a next list comprising one or more items in accordance with the selection of the item from the current list;

identifying a default selection comprising an item of the next list that optimizes the optimization function; and

providing for presentation to the user the next list comprising the one or more items having the identified default selection.

38. (New) The system of Claim 36, operable to generate the next list by:
determining a valid item configuration for the product in accordance with the
selection of the item from the current list and in accordance with a constraint restricting
selection of an item for the product; and
generating the next list comprising only one or more items of the valid item
configuration.

39. (New) The system of Claim 36, operable to generate the next list by:
determining one or more items of the next list that are available to the user in
accordance with a constraint restricting selection of an item for the product; and
generating the next list comprising only the one or more items of the next list that are
available to the user in accordance with the constraint restricting selection of an item for the
product.

40. (New) The system of Claim 36, wherein the optimization function comprises
a function for minimizing product price.

41. (New) The system of Claim 36, wherein the optimization function comprises
a function for maximizing profits.

42. (New) The system of Claim 36, wherein the optimization function is selected
as a function of an identity of the user.

43. (New) The system of Claim 36, wherein the optimization function is selected
by the user.